

Escalation and Assurance Report

Agenda
item

9.1

Report from the: Mental Health Legislation and Quality and Safety Committee

Date the meeting took place: 21st January 2021

Report was presented to the: Board of Directors on 28 January 2021

Key discussion points and matters to be escalated from the discussion at the meeting:

Alert:

- There is continued and sustained pressure on mental health services; 4 wards currently closed to admissions due to COVID-19. Place and system have responded in kind, and strategic level negotiations to prioritise and specify additional monies for MH inpatient services are in train. Discussions with an independent sector provider are being considered where internal capacity is an issue, to help service users receive the necessary local support rather than incur the need for out of area placements.
- There is continued pressure on our Pharmacy Services and especially their leadership; assurance was sought and received that the Trust is working to find additional capacity across partnering MH/Community providers at the required grade. Locum arrangements also in place. Current pressures relate to mass vaccine provision. Medicines Management Strategy delayed with acceptable rationales.
- COVID-19 arrangements and vaccine dissemination are progressing well. However, this is a huge logistical exercise and the Trust needs to continue to be responsive to changes requested from both national and place-based partners which can be received at short notice. Our communication strategy will use a mixture of traditional and digital channels to ensure our staff and local communities are well informed of arrangements, aligned to national messaging.

Advise:

- We asked for explicit metrics re staff preceptorship and how these might be shared with the Workforce Committee to advance recruitment and progression of staff, and their well-being.
- Ethics Committee should be used to ensure we are addressing potential risks of closed cultures, and this focus made explicit to the regulator.

Assure:

- Children's Services staffing now in green, due to continued pressures we will monitor progress. Well done to all concerned.
- Further assurance received re other staffing levels across MH Inpatient Services.
- COVID-19 arrangements and vaccine dissemination are progressing well and a detailed, logical presentation of process and expectations was received from our DoN and COO.

- The CQC update offered considerable assurance re progress in achieving resolution of documented challenges and their embeddedness. Continuous monitoring is essential and current process agreed by all. Progress is especially apparent in MH services, which are under very significant pressure. Further dissemination of improvements to CMHTs will follow. To guard against risk of closed cultures/inappropriate restrictions on liberty/exacerbation of health inequalities, key metrics and qualitative comments on action plan will continue be scrutinised at these committees. An associated deep dive into Section 136 management is planned.

Risks discussed:

- Refresh risk 2151 Brexit. Oversight discussed – systematic process apparent with full assurance.

New risks identified:

- Nil

Report completed by: Gerry Armitage, Non-Executive Director
Date: 21st January 2021